



Report summary for parents and carers on Canolfan Addysg Nant-y-Bryniau Education Centre

Date of inspection: May 2023

by Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

Overview

Canolfan Addysg Nant-y-Bryniau is an outstanding educational provision for pupils who have significant severe and complex mental health needs. Pupils' well-being is at its foundation and all staff work together to best meet the highly complex needs of the pupils who attend the provision.

Staff deliver a highly effective curriculum which supports the pupils to re-engage with learning during their time at the PRU. The highly skilled and dedicated staff provide flexibility in the delivery of the curriculum to ensure breadth and depth of learning experiences. These support the learning, health, and therapeutic needs of pupils in a meaningful way. Learning experiences are exceptionally well individualised and balance support for pupil well-being with academic study extremely effectively. This allows pupils to build their self-confidence and independence skills, and to develop increasing levels of resilience in learning and every day activities. The strong collaborative working across all staff, together with highly effective tracking and assessment processes, means that pupil progress is exceptionally well monitored.

Partnership working is a significant strength of the PRU. Staff develop highly effective links with pupils' mainstream schools and colleges to support them to continue with their educational pathways. A seamless and exceptionally strong working relationship between onsite health colleagues and educational staff is well established. This collaborative working places the pupils' needs at the centre of all learning and therapeutic support.

Staff provide a safe, caring, and inclusive learning environment, where pupils are strongly encouraged to succeed in their learning. Staff have a deep understanding of the needs of all the pupils. This is well supported through a highly effective and purposeful professional learning offer for all staff.

Leadership at the PRU is extremely strong. The teacher in charge provides exceptional leadership and has developed a strong team approach with the staff. This means that all staff have a clear sense of working together to drive improvement. Leadership significantly supports highly effective partnership working for the benefit of the pupils, parents and carers.

Recommendations

R1 Strengthen the role of the management committee

What happens next

The PRU will draw up an action plan to address the recommendation from the inspection.

Estyn will invite the PRU to prepare two case studies on its work in relation to:

- The development of Welsh provision across the PRU
- The impact of the mental health functioning in education (MHFE) tracking tool

for dissemination on Estyn's website.

School context

Name of provider	Canolfan Addysg Nant-y-Bryniau Education Centre
Local authority	Conwy County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Pupil referral unit (PRU)
Residential provision?	No
Multi-site provision?	No
Number of pupils on roll	5
Pupils of statutory school age	5
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/02/2013
Start date of inspection	15/05/2023

Canolfan Addysg Nant-y-Bryniau is an educational facility provided by Conwy Local Education Authority (LEA) Inclusion Service Department on behalf of all the unitary authority education departments across North Wales including North Powys. The staff within Nant y Bryniau work under the guidance of Conwy Education Inclusion Service and in partnership with the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) staff team at North Wales Adolescent Service (NWAS) to enable all patients at the mental health hospital to access their entitlement to education.

The pupil referral unit (PRU) provides education for pupils who have severe and complex mental health needs and are admitted for a period of residential intensive therapeutic treatment. All pupils who access this provision via health referrals and not education services. Every young person leaves the PRU when they are discharged from the ward. They leave with an identified pathway and are supported back into school, college, or employment. When a young person is deemed too unwell to access these, they are linked with appropriate services to meet their needs such as assisted living placements. All pupils remain on the register of their mainstream school or college throughout their in-patient or community patient time.

The PRU provides education for up to 18 pupils from age 12 to 18 years. The PRU is situated in a purpose-built building linked to the residential hospital unit. It provides two services. One for up to 12 pupils who receive on-site in-patient education (Kestrel provision). Secondly, an outreach education support service for pupils which can be on-site or in the community (Kite Provision).

A team of eight staff provide the educational support led by the teacher in charge. The educational support is fully integrated with health service provision. On average there are 30 to 50 admissions per year. These pupils' level of experienced trauma is significant and as a result they may be detained under the Mental Health Act. The management committee includes one representative from each of the unitary local authorities, one staff representative, the teacher in charge, two NHS stakeholders, the local authority NWAS service manager and the Kite team clinical lead.

Due to the very few pupils currently receiving education at the PRU, Estyn have not reported on inspection areas 1: Learning and, inspection area 2: Well-being and attitudes to learning.

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